

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. CLINTON). Without objection, it is so ordered.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that there be a period for morning business with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 5 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

THE CONFIRMATION OF JOHNNY MACK BROWN TO BE UNITED STATES MARSHAL FOR THE DISTRICT OF SOUTH CAROLINA

Mr. THURMOND. Mr. President, I am pleased that the Senate has confirmed Johnny Mack Brown to be United States Marshal for the District of South Carolina. Johnny Mack Brown is a man of outstanding character and is highly qualified to serve as a United States Marshal. He will serve our Nation well.

Johnny Mack has over 30 years' experience in law enforcement. In 1966, he went to work for the South Carolina Department of Probation, Parole & Pardon, serving as a probation officer. From there, he joined the Thirteenth Circuit Solicitor's Office and worked as an investigator for four years.

Mr. Brown's success soon provided him with opportunities to showcase his substantial leadership skills. In 1973, he became the director of the Municipal Offender Program at the Greenville City Municipal Court in Greenville, SC. From 1974 to 1976, he served as Director of the Pre-Trial Diversion Program in the Thirteenth Circuit Solicitor's Office.

After his time at the Solicitor's office, Johnny Mack decided to run for office himself. He was elected in 1976 as the Sheriff of Greenville County, SC. He was subsequently re-elected five times and served a total of 24 years as Greenville's beloved sheriff.

As sheriff, Johnny Mack Brown served with distinction. He proved himself to be a strong leader, and it is no wonder that he was elected to a total of six terms. There is no doubt that Johnny Mack Brown's constituents felt secure with him as their sheriff. The voters' repeated endorsement of Johnny Mack is a tribute to his skill and professionalism.

During his time as sheriff, Johnny Mack contributed to the State and national law enforcement community in various ways. For example, he has written numerous articles for law enforcement publications. These writings have dealt with topics such as the professionalizing of sheriff's offices, the use of information technologies, and the implementation of community programs for crime prevention.

Mr. Brown has also served in prominent leadership positions at both the state and national levels. In 1983, he served as President of the South Caro-

lina Sheriffs' Association. Ten years later, he was elected President of the National Sheriff's Association. Johnny Mack's selection to these prestigious positions is a testament to his capacity to lead others.

Johnny Mack Brown has also been the recipient of numerous awards. In 1990, the Lion's Club of Greenville awarded Johnny Mack the Distinguished Citizen Award, and in 1998, the Blue Ridge Council of the Boy Scouts of America awarded him another Distinguished Citizen Award. In 1999, the Pleasantburg Lion's Club named him as its Citizen of the Year. Johnny Mack Brown is also a 1993 recipient of the Order of the Palmetto, South Carolina's highest civilian award.

Johnny Mack Brown's law enforcement credentials and his leadership skills will serve him well as United States Marshal in the District of South Carolina. He is truly a deserving man who has striven to serve the public with honor and integrity for many years. He will be a very successful United States Marshal, and I am proud to see him confirmed.

TRIBUTE TO JESSE HELMS

Mr. CONRAD. Madam President, I take this opportunity to recognize the distinguished career of one of our retiring colleagues, the senior Senator from North Carolina, Senator HELMS.

Senator HELMS began his service in the U.S. Senate in January of 1973. When he retires at the end of this year, at the conclusion of his fifth term, he will have served the public as a U.S. Senator for a full 30 years. Those of us who have had the privilege of being a member of this institution understand well the commitment, hard work, dedication, and personal sacrifice that make such a record possible.

Senator HELMS' lengthy career in the Senate actually represented the continuation of an already notable and varied public life that included, among other things, service in the U.S. Navy from 1942 to 1945, senior staff positions under two U.S. Senators, two terms on the Raleigh, NC, City Council, and a host of leadership positions with civic, business, and educational organizations.

During our time in the Senate, I have come to know Senator HELMS best as a fellow member of the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry. While on the Committee, he proved to be an outspoken and vigorous defender of those commodities, such as peanuts and tobacco, that are important to North Carolina's vital agricultural sector. But he has also shown himself to be a leader for all of U.S. agriculture, as when he chaired the Agriculture Committee during the period when Congress wrote the Food Security Act of 1985, otherwise known as the 1985 farm bill. That legislation is recognized even today for its groundbreaking commitment to keeping U.S. agriculture competitive in the

international marketplace through such programs as the Export Enhancement Program and the Targeted Export Assistance program—now the Market Access Program—and for its landmark provisions in support of natural resource conservation, such as the Conservation Reserve Program.

When I think of Senator HELMS as a person, two characteristics stand out. First and foremost, I think of him as a gentleman always, one who gives current meaning to an old-fashioned term: courtly. Refined in his manners and respectful toward others, he brings a Southern charm and grace to all that he does, and a civility to political discourse that sadly is too often lacking today.

Second, he has displayed even in the twilight of his career an openness and a tolerance toward others who hold views that he may not always have shared. In that respect, he has displayed a capacity for growth and understanding that should serve as an inspiration to the rest of us.

I know that I am joined by all of my colleagues in wishing Senator HELMS and his wife Dorothy a long restful, and fulfilling retirement together in North Carolina.

PASSAGE OF S. 1868

Mr. BIDEN. Madam President, I am pleased the Senate passed S. 1868 by unanimous consent on October 17, along with a Biden-Thurmond substitute. Enactment of this measure will make our children safer, and I rise today to explain several of the bill's provisions.

Today, 87 million of our children are involved in activities provided by child and youth organizations which depend heavily on volunteers to deliver their services. Millions more elderly and disabled adults are served by public and private service organizations. Organizations across the country, like the Boys and Girls Clubs, often rely solely on volunteers to make these safe havens for kids a place where they can learn. The Boys and Girls Clubs and others don't just provide services to kids, their work reverberates throughout our communities, as the after-school programs they provide help keep kids out of trouble. This is juvenile crime prevention at its best, and I salute the volunteers who help make these programs work.

Unfortunately, some of these volunteers and employees come to their jobs with less than the best of intentions. According to the National Mentoring Partnership, incidents of child sexual abuse in child care settings, foster homes and schools ranges from 1 to 7 percent. Organizations have tried to weed out bad apples, and today most conduct background checks on applicants who seek to work with children. Unfortunately, these checks can often take months to complete, can be expensive, and many organizations do not have access to the FBI's national fingerprint database. These time delays